honesty, thought fit to send in his designs under a device, although not required to do so, and then acquainted persons connected with the board of directors what that device was."

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE general annual meeting of this society was held on the 10th inst.—Dr. Lee, F.R.S. in the chair. The report of the auditors was read, and thanks proposed and voted unanimously to them, to the council, to the officers, and to the late president of the society, Sir Oswald Mosely, bart. Mr. Pettigrew, treasurer, read the list of the deceased, retired, and new-elected members, by which it appeared that seven members had died during the past year, and twenty had retired, and that fifty-six new members had been elected, making an increase of twenty-nine members during the twelvemonths. The meeting then proceeded to ballot for the president, officers, and council for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were unanimously elected:—

President—The Duke of Newcastle. *Vice-Presidents*—Sir W. Betham, M.R.I.A.; Sir Fortunatus Dwarris, F.R.S.; J. Heywood, M.P.; John Lee, LL.D.; Monckton Milnes, M.P.; T. J. Pettigrew, F.R.S.; S. R. Solly, F.R.S.; Sir Gardner Wilkinson, F.R.S. *Secretaries*—C. Baily, F.S.A.; J. R. Planché, F.S.A. *Hydrographical Secretary*—Capt. Bullock, R.N. *Secretary for Foreign Correspondence*—Wm. Beattie, M.D. *Registrar, &c.*—Alfred White. *Council*—C. Ainsley; A. Ashpitel, F.S.A.; W. H. Black; A. H. Burkitt, F.S.A.; Syer Cuming; F. H. Davis, F.S.A.; H. Duesbury; George Godwin; N. Gould, F.S.A; J. Halliwell, F.R.S.; T. Lott, F.S.A.; W. Calder Marshall, R.A.; Major Moore, F.R.S.; H. C. Pidgeon; R. Tress, F.S.A.; Wm. Wansey, F.S.A.; and Wm. Yewd. *Auditors*—W. Hawkins, F.S.A.; and J. Whichcord, F.S.A.

SAVE LEICESTER-SQUARE.

SIR,—The proprietor of "The Great Globe," in Leicester-square, intends to get an Act of Parliament to authorise him to retain his building permanently; in other words, to take from the public an open space long possessed, and of priceless worth. Surely, unless a greater good is to be given in exchange for that which is taken, an Act of Parliament ought to be refused. I have no objection to his taking Leicester-square, if he will give the public in lieu of it as many superficial yards wholly free from buildings in another locality accessible to the public. But no, he cannot do this. Then he ought not to be suffered to take from *us* "that which enriches" himself only, and "makes *us* poor indeed." The squares of London are a kind of beneficial institution, from which we all derive unspeakable advantage; and if one gentleman be allowed to convert the area of Leicester-square into private property, how long shall we retain Grosvenor-square, Russell-square, Lincoln's-inn-fields, and others, which adorn London, and contribute to the health of the fast-increasing Babylon of modern days. Our squares are ventilators as much as the parks are London's "lungs," and ought not to be shut up for the interest of an individual. Be the Hampden of our squares, Mr. Editor; and "with dauntless *pen* the *sordid* tyrants of our squares withstand."

Instead of losing open areas, we want more. We want, too, *parish play-grounds* for the children of the poor. Nor would it be a bad thing if some "broken soldier" were appointed, with a trifle to eke out his pension to a life-supporting amount, to watch over them and drill them. Children would care none the worse in after-life if they were taught to "turn out their toes and hold up their heads," and otherwise "take heed to their ways." As it is, one does not meet, in a day's walk in our crowded streets, half a dozen persons who walk as they ought to do, soldiers and well-trained gentlemen excepted. Perhaps, too, the habit of holding the head erect, and of expanding the chest, might counteract that tendency to apoplexy and to lung diseases which now exists among us. OPIFEX.

THAMES TUNNEL COMPANY.—The receipts during the past year have been, from tolls 5,928*l.* 0s. 8d.; rents, &c. 1,143*l.* 13s. 6d. The disbursements amount to 4,212*l.* 13s. 10d. 1,776*l.* 18s. 1d. have been handed to the Commissioners of Public Works, in part payment of interest on Government loan of 250,000*l.* The amount of tolls during the past year has exceeded the average of former years by nearly 2,000*l.*

RECOVERY OF ARCHITECTS' CHARGES.

NICHOLSON *v.* HOOSON.

THIS was an action upon an architect's bill, tried at Nottingham. The defendant paid into court 3*l.* 16s. 6d. and, as to the remainder of the claim, pleaded—first, that he did not make the contract; and, secondly, payment.

The plaintiff is an architect at Lincoln, and the defendant was one of the churchwardens of Worksop, in this county, as well as member of a committee formed for carrying out the project of restoring the old Abbey Church, which had fallen into very great decay. The services for which the plaintiff now sought to recover were rendered in superintending, as architect, the restoration of that church. He, in common with other architects, had in 1845 sent in plans and an estimate, and for the work then required to be done he had made an offer to the committee to do it for 150*l.* with which offer no dissatisfaction was expressed.

Other architects were afterwards called in; and the plaintiff was put into communication with them. Various alterations were adopted by the committee from time to time, so that the work lasted from 1846 to 1849, and the cost grew to a sum of about 4,619*l.* The roof had been coloured blue, but one of the committee having declared that he could not pray under a blue ceiling, a dark oak-stained roof was substituted. This was only one of many alterations and additions by which the work was varied after the plaintiff had made his original offer. The plaintiff charged 5 per cent. upon the outlay and some extras. On the part of the defendant it was admitted that the principal charges were reasonable, if the plaintiff was not bound by his offer of 150*l.*

The learned Judge thought that he was not; and ultimately, by consent, a verdict was found for the plaintiff,—damages, 250*l.*

Notices of Books.

A Visitation of the Seats and Arms of the Noblemen and Gentlemen of Great Britain. By JOHN BERNARD BURKE, Esq. of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, Author of the "Peerage," "Landed Gentry," &c. Part I. Colburn and Co. Great Marlborough-street, London. 1852.

MR. BURKE is indefatigable as an author, and yet his works must require great research as well as local trouble and time to mature them. The book now before us will form a peculiarly interesting record of all we can boast of, in the shape of our more distinguished English family-seats throughout the provinces. It is illustrated too with sketches, which, however, are of course in such a work rather more picturesque than architectural. We may here quote the author's own remarks as to the contents, and the objects he has had in view:—

"The county-seats of Great Britain are here historically described, and are accompanied, in some instances, by picturesque views: this portion we have endeavoured to enliven with legends, anecdotes, and traditional reminiscences; with the descent of each property shown down to the present possessor, and with reference to the ultimate fate of the different families which, in the course of time, have enjoyed and given vitality to the inheritance.

We have, in fact, taken these picturesque estates and placed the living figures, with their deeds, their honours, and their worth, upon them—imparting thus to each inanimate fabric and silent landscape, its own congenial and appropriate soul.

We have now to speak of what is intended in the second part of the work. . . . These visitations ceased with the seventeenth century, and have never since been resumed. To supply, in some measure, the want of such valuable sources of heraldic and genealogical information, is one great object of the present work."

The Prize Essay on the Application of recent Inventions, collected at the Great Exhibition of 1851, to the Purposes of Practical Banking. By GRANVILLE SHARP.

THIS is a reprint from the *Bankers' Magazine* of January and February last. Its purpose is sufficiently indicated in its title. It contains a fair view of much that is new and good in regard to all such inventions as may tend to promote the safety, convenience, healthfulness, and comfort of banking edifices, though on some points rather defective. Of course it is not limited to what relates merely to the buildings themselves in their fireproof construction, lighting, heating, ventilating, guarding, &c.; but treats also of all that relates to paper, pens, and ink; to copying, printing, and engraving, *et multis aliis.*

The Four Primary Sensations of the Mind. A brief Essay. By JOHN BELL, Sculptor. Chapman and Hall, Piccadilly. 1852.

WE are glad to observe that Mr. Bell has republished his essays on "the sublime, the pleasing, the low or ridiculous, and the unpleasing," which first came under the public eye in the *Journal of Design.* As remarked in the preface, Mr. Bell would have preferred, for the word "pleasing" the term "beautiful;" but as an opposite was requisite, and as he objected to those which suggested themselves, he reverted to the terms "pleasing" and "unpleasing," as more strictly significant of prominent modifications of *sensation.* He felt, also, a little at a loss for an antithesis to the word "sublime," its old correlative and associate "ridiculous," not fully comprehending all he meant to imply in the antithesis desiderated. He, therefore, felt himself obliged to add an accompanying term, namely, "low," although perhaps, as "sublime" implies height as well as depth, "ridiculous" might have been held to imply the low as well as the little. These are metaphysical distinctions, however, which do not necessarily affect the argument or scope of the essay itself.

Old Eighteen Fifty-One. A New Year's Tale for 1852. London: Houlston and Stoneman.

WE have here the occurrences of the year put into a pleasant readable form for children. It makes a very interesting little volume.

Miscellanea.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—The successful production of a grand opera in four acts is not a slight achievement, and involves the exercise of a larger amount of varied talent, ingenuity, time, and money-expenditure than the public generally, who care only for the result, have any notion of. The knowledge of this fact should induce consideration for short-comings in such an attempt, when observable, and warm acknowledgments when successful. Mr. Balfe's last work, *The Sicilian Bride*, which has been produced at Drury-lane by Mr. Bunn with considerable splendour, contains some of the best music that our countryman has ever written, and if it should not have so widely spread and lasting a popularity as the *Bohemian Girl*, will owe this to the story which he has wedded to his music rather than to any defect on his own part. Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Whitworth, and Miss P. Horton, sing beautifully in it; and Miss Crichton, if scarcely equal to so arduous a part as its heroine, displays so much voice, taste, and knowledge as to lead us to expect for her a very honourable position amongst English singers. The first scene, a rich country near Syracuse, with Mount Ætna in the distance, is nicely painted. More might have been done with the "Armourer's Forge." Those who are in the habit of groaning over the deficiency of musical talent in England, and the few opportunities native composers and singers have amongst us, should show their willingness to aid in amendment by paying a visit to Drury-lane.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH WORKMEN.—On entering the department of Vulcan, in which were several forges at work, I could not help being struck with the difference between French and English smiths, with the latter of whom I had some little acquaintance. Both raise their sledge hammers with equal vigour, but the effort of the French seems to die away before it reaches the anvil; whereas with the Englishman the momentum invariably quickens. The same difference was apparent to me in heavy filing. The French workman makes a great effort to get the file into its position, and afterwards half gives it up. The English workman prepares gently, and then works spitefully. In two words, the French smiths appeared to work very neatly indeed, but, as we should term it, to niggle.—*Sir F. Head.*

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